

1. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic implant comprising:

a femoral component operable to replace at least a portion of a patient's natural femur;

a tibial component operable to replace at least a portion of a patient's natural tibia, said tibial component having a superior tibial component surface; and

a bearing operable to provide engagement between said femoral component and said tibial component having:

a superior bearing surface operable to articulate with said femoral component; and

an inferior bearing surface operable to cooperate with said superior tibial component surface; and

a wear reduction device located at at least one of said superior tibial component surface and said inferior bearing surface and operable to reduce wear upon at least one of said superior tibial component surface and said inferior bearing surface; said wear reduction device is coplanar with at least one of said superior tibial component surface and said inferior bearing surface;

wherein said wear reduction device is a ceramic insert seated within a recess located at at least one of said superior tibial component surface and said inferior bearing surface.

2. (Original) The implant of Claim 1, wherein said bearing is fixed relative to said tibial component.

3. (Original) The implant of Claim 1, wherein said bearing is movable relative to said tibial component in a medial to lateral direction.

4. (Original) The implant of Claim 1, wherein said bearing is movable relative to said tibial component in an anterior to posterior direction.

5. (Original) The implant of Claim 1, wherein said bearing is operable to move in a rotational direction relative to said tibial component.

6. (Original) The implant of Claim 1, wherein said superior tibial component is planar.

7. (Original) The implant of Claim 1, wherein said superior tibial component surface is at least one of a concave or a convex surface.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) The implant of Claim 1 ~~[[2]]~~, wherein said ceramic insert is at least one of zirconia and alumina.

10. - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic tibial implant comprising:

a tibial plate operable to replace at least a portion of a patient's tibia

having:

a superior surface;

an inferior surface opposite said superior surface;

a bearing engagement surface located at said superior surface; and

a wear reduction device located at said superior surface and  
coplanar with both said superior surface and said bearing engagement surface; and

a stem extending from said inferior surface;

wherein said wear reduction device is a ceramic insert seated within a  
recess at said superior surface.

20. (Original) The implant of Claim 19, wherein said superior surface is planar.

21. (Original) The implant of Claim 19, wherein said superior surface is curved.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The implant of Claim 19 ~~[[22]]~~, wherein said ceramic  
insert is at least one of zirconia and alumina.

24. – 32. (Cancelled)

33. (Currently Amended) A prosthetic implant comprising:

a first member having a first surface;

a second member with a second surface that engages said first surface of said first member; and

a wear reduction device provided on and co-planar with at least one of said first surface and said second surface to reduce wear of said first member and said second member;

wherein said wear reduction device is a ceramic insert seated within a recess in at least one of said first surface and said second surface.

34. (Original) The implant of Claim 33, wherein said first member is a tibial component operable to replace at least a portion of a patient's natural tibia.

35. (Original) The implant of Claim 34, wherein said second member is a bearing operable to permit articulation between a femoral component and said tibial component.

36. (Original) The implant of Claim 33, wherein said first member is fixed relative to said second member.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) The implant of Claim 33 ~~[[37]]~~, wherein said ceramic insert is at least one of zirconia and alumina.

39. – 47. (Cancelled)

48. (Original) The implant of Claim 33, wherein said first member is movable relative to said second member.